

PATENT APPLICATION

**METHOD, SYSTEM, AND SOFTWARE FOR SIGNAL PROCESSING  
USING SHEEP AND SHEPARD ARTIFACTS**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           A method, system, and software are disclosed for improving the quality of a  
signal. A signal is converted to a digital representation and then segregated into  
separate data sets based on one or more properties of the data sets. Data sets exhibiting  
relatively more information associated with a selected property are designated as  
shepherd artifacts, and data sets exhibiting relatively less information associated with  
10           a selected property are designated as sheep artifacts. A representative shepherd artifact  
is then used to guide a representative sheep artifact, resulting in a guided artifact with  
enhanced signal properties. This process may be repeated for other categories of signal  
properties. The resulting guided artifacts may then be combined to form a processed  
signal with one or more enhanced properties having increased quality. The present  
15           invention finds particular application in photography and digital film processing,  
whereby the illustrated method may be used to improve image quality.

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